



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: **Yasumasa ITOH et al.**

Serial No.: **09/822,230**

Group Art Unit: **1764**

Filed: **April 2, 2001**

Examiner: Not yet assigned

For: **DEVICE FOR GASIFYING STERILIZING LIQUID**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND  
STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)**

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SEP 21 2001  
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Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

September 19, 2001

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these references is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry in the national stage for the above-captioned application and/or issuance of a first official action on the merits, but prior to issuance of either a final official action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

The undersigned hereby certifies

XX that each item of information contained in this statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement, or

-- that no item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the

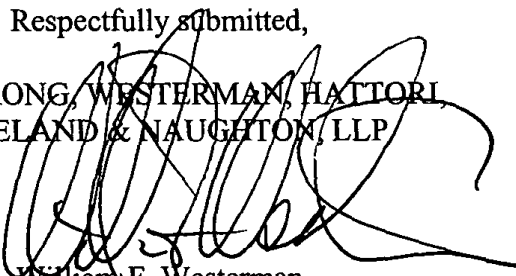
undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no information contained in this statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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WFW/klh  
Enclosures: PTO-1449 and 4 references  
Search Report



<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PTO-1449</b>	Atty. Docket No.: 010461	Serial No.: 09/822,230
	Applicants: Yasumasa ITOH et al.	
	Filing Date: April 2, 2001	Group Art Unit: 1764

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA	5,997,827	Mezger et al.	12/7/99	422	292	
_____	AB						
_____	AC						
_____	AD						
_____	AE						

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AF	3-226444	10/7/91	Japan	yes (abstract only)
_____	AG	0384 535 A2	8/29/90	Europe	yes
_____	AH	0 481 361 A1	4/22/92	Europe	yes
_____	AI				
_____	AJ				

### OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AK	
_____	AL	
Examiner	Date Considered	

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